

Task Force suffers first casualty

Story by
Staff Sgt. Jeff Troth

Task Force 1-501st Parachute Infantry Regiment received its first casualty last week in the Global War on Terrorism.

Spc. Paul G. Riley, an infantryman with Company A, was shot in the left hip by small arms fire as the company finished a village assessment during Operation Mountain Storm, April 1. After 24 hours of observation at the Forward Operating Base Salerno field hospital, he was released back to his company.

"We had been pulling overwatch (security) and nothing had happened,

then we got the call on the radio to head back in," Riley said. "I was walking back to the vehicles when I heard a shot. I felt the pain instantly and right away I knew that I had been shot."

Riley said that it "felt like someone had hit me in the side with a hammer." He told the rest of his team that he had been shot, but since no blood was visible Riley said everyone thought he was joking.

After taking cover and lowering his pants, they saw the entry wound and everyone knew this was no joke. While the unit searched futilely for the



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeff Troth

Col. William Garrett, commander Task Force Warrior, pins the Purple Heart on Spc. Paul Riley during a ceremony at Salerno. shooter who had disappeared back into the Afghan countryside, Riley assisted by two fellow Geronimos walked about 150 meters to where the medics were.

After the medics patched him up, Riley was medevaced to Salerno, where the doctors of the 325th Forward Surgical Team sewed him up. Since the bullet was not causing an immediate threat, the doctors decided not to put Riley through the surgery required to retrieve it.

"There are some very nice and good doctors over at the FST," said Ri-

ley. But no matter how nice they were Riley said he was glad to only stay one night there.

"I was real determined to get out of there," he said. "I just don't like being in there, not being able to move, to take care of myself."

"There are a lot of important organs in that area," said Dr. (Capt.) Brenton Milner. "He got very lucky that the bullet missed all the important stuff."

Riley said the Company A leadership wants him to take it easy and not rush his recovery, so for the next

See RILEY page 5



Photo by Richard Butler

A medevac crew chief makes sure that the litter team is safe as they carry Spc. Paul Riley to the UH-60 Black Hawk.

Salerno Happenings

Re-up You're Not Crazy

The bonus for those who reenlistment while deployed to Afghanistan ends soon. Stop by the ALOC and see Staff Sgt. William Whisman for your piece of the pie.

Finance and Mail Reps on FOB

Finance and postal representatives will be here on April 17. Check with your training room for location and times. Need a power of attorney? Legal clerk coming soon. Sign up with your company training room.

Rest and Relaxation

R&R to Qatar resumes on April 15. Check with your chain of command to get on your unit OML.

The World

Warlord Overruns Provincial Capital

Forces of a northern strongman overran the capital of a remote Afghan province Thursday morning, in a burst of factional violence meant to undermine the authority of Afghan President Hamid Karzai. Troops loyal to ethnic Uzbek warlord Abdul Rashid Dstum swept into Maymana, the center of Faryab province, 260 miles northwest of Kabul.

Avalanche 3, Stars 1

The Colorado Avalanche skated to an easy 3-1 victory over the Dallas Stars thanks to goalie David Aebischer. "He kept us in the game," Avalanche center Peter Fosberg said. "They had alot of power plays and he made some unbelievable saves. It was great to see him play like that." Fosberg, Alex Tanguay and Joe Sakic scored for Colorado, while Niko Kapanen scored the lone score for the Stars with only 6:30 left on the clock.

Airport Closed to Avoid Vacation

DUESSELDORF, Germany - A Croatian woman was convicted Thursday of disturbing the peace for phoning a bomb threat to Duesseldorf airport to get out of a vacation with her boyfriend.

The woman was given a suspended sentence after admitting in court that she called authorities and, in a hoax, made an al Qaeda bomb threat because her parents disapproved of her boyfriend.

"Then I had the idea that if the trip could somehow be blocked by someone else, for example a bomb threat, then that would solve all the problems," she added. Her flight departed anyway, several hours late.

FOB faces

What is the one comfort item that you wish you had brought with you?



More socks, you can never have enough socks.

Senior Airman Dana Warheit
455th EOG/CWT



An air mattress, cause let's face facts these cots suck.

Spc Brian Greenlee
Headquarters Company



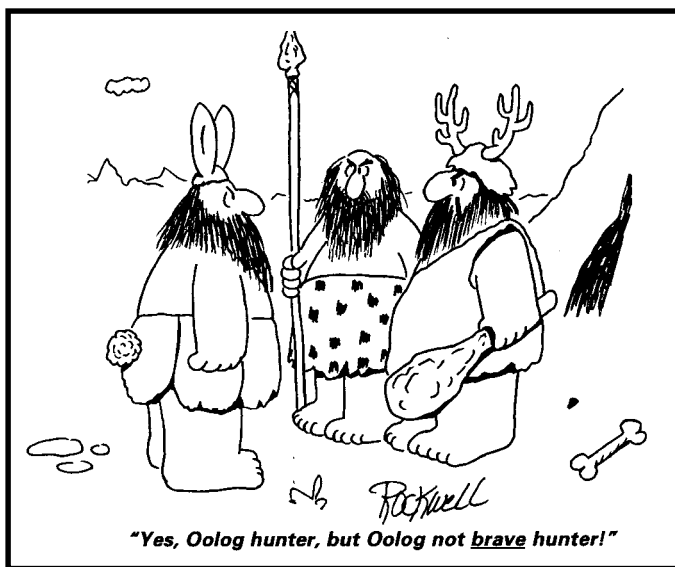
My Computer. It has all my info, 40 hours of music and all my pictures - especially my wife! Second would be an air mattress. Good sleep is priceless.

Spec. Michael Hale
Forward Support Company



My ATV, cause it is a long walk to the TOC, ALOC, ect.

Staff Sgt. Antonio Pena
Company B

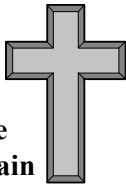


"Yes, Oolog hunter, but Oolog not brave hunter!"

Explore the possibilities of Christianity

Faith in the Word

By Chaplain
(Capt.) Brad Lee
1/501st PIR Chaplain



Greetings my fellow Geronimos and Salerno-ites. We are finally well past the half way mark and redeployment, though still a few months away, moves closer to being a reality with each passing day.

Considering recent events however, we must remain diligent in our efforts and keep in mind not only our combat mission, but also the underlying reason that we are here—to protect and defend the freedoms that our families and we enjoy.

As I write, Good Friday is upon us. And while operations continue and there are no “holidays” in a combat zone, for those of us in the Christian faith this day holds special significance and meaning.

Ironically, while this day historically commemorates the horrible death and crucifixion of Christ, it is a good day in which we remember that Christ died for us and made possible the atonement of our sins.

Atonement meaning that through

Christ’s death, our sins can be forgiven and our relationship with God restored as God intended it to be. And while missions continue, and life on FOB Salerno continues its stride, I encourage each of you that claim to be Christian, to make the intentional effort to ponder the meaning of this day and its significance in our lives.

Others of you may have never given much thought to “Good Friday” and its’ meaning. I would encourage you to explore the possibility of God’s plan for your life and the significant place that faith can have in your life.

I realize that for some, the Christian faith is mysterious at best and confusing at worst. And while I would not intend to sound harsh, some on the other hand, have not even attempted to understand the Christian faith.

As a reminder, some of the basic tenants of the Christian faith include the following:

God is Creator of the universe. Jesus Christ, was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. Jesus was crucified, died, and buried, but rose from the grave three

days later. Through His death and resurrection the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life is made possible. The Holy Spirit, the third person of the Holy Trinity, fills and empowers us to live victorious Christian lives.

Chapel Events and Service Schedule

Monday

Hockey Night at the Chapel @ 1400 Hours

Wednesday

Men of Honor: A study of sexual integrity, moral courage, and spiritual discipline @ 1500

Saturday

Spanish Mass @ 1400

Protestant Service @ 1500

Sunday

Protestant Service @ 0400

Catholic Mass (English) @ 0500

LDS Service @ 0600

A Bible Study @ 1400 (conducted by SPC Hale)

***The chapel is intentionally dedicated Monday-Friday from 0700-0800 for personal prayer, meditation, and study.**

And while these elements do not explain the Christian faith in its totality, I’m sure that when you or I joined the Army, we did not fully understand the totality of what we were getting into as well.

My point is this, just because you do not understand everything there is to know about the Christian faith do not let that hinder you from exploring the possibilities of the Christian faith and its’ impact and importance in your life.

May God continue to bless and protect each of you in your mission, and may He continue to bless and protect our families.

For God & Country,
Chaplain Lee





FOB gets general checkups



TOP: (Left to right) Command Sergeant Major Ralph Beam, U.S. Army Alaska command sergeant major, Maj. Gen. John Brown, USARAK commander, Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker, Chief of Staff of the Army, Maj. Gen. Lloyd J. Austin, III, CJTF-180 and 10th Mountain Division commander receive a brief from Task Force 1-501st PIR Commander Lt. Col. Harry C. Glenn, III, as company commanders and first sergeants are ready to answer

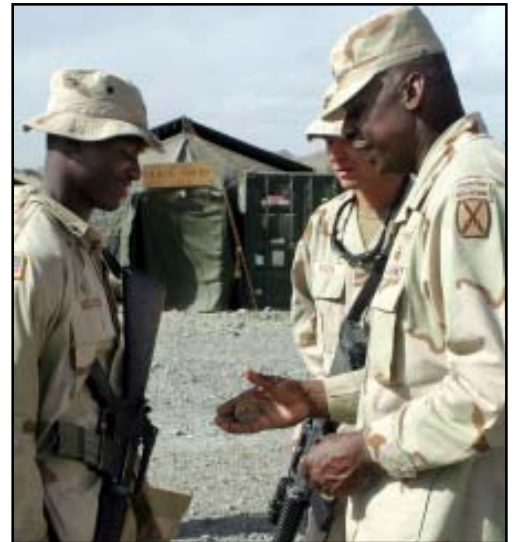
questions. **ABOVE:** Schoomaker talks to Detachment D during his visit. **BELOW RIGHT:** Sgt. Tobey Bryer, Company B talks with Maj. Gen. John Brown, while Spc. David Howard searches an Afghan man leaving Chapman. **BELOW LEFT:** Schoomaker lets Battery B, 377th PFAR, artillerymen know that their efforts here count. **LEFT:** Brown takes time out of his trip to reenlist Cpl. Philip Jean, Det. D, who signed up for current station stabilization.

**PHOTOS BY
STAFF SGT.
JEFF TROTH**



10th Mountain says good-bye

Maj. Gen. Lloyd Austin, III, CJTF-180 and 10th Mountain Division commander stopped by FOB Salerno to say good-bye and thanks to Task Force 1-501st Parachute Infantry Regiment Geronimos. Austin and the rest of the Fort Drum Soldiers head home to Fort Drum, NY, as 25th Infantry Division replaces them. **RIGHT:** Maj. Gen. Lloyd Austin, III, pins First Sergeant Mark Collazos' second combat infantryman badge to his uniform. First Sgt. Michael Sonnenschien, waits his second CIB. Both first sergeants and Cpt. Ned Marsh were also awarded the Bronze Star Medal for their contributions in Afghanistan. Marsh also earned his first CIB. **BELOW:** Cpt. Anthony Gibbs and his Apaches listen to the general. Spc. Patrick Nguessan, Battery B, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment, receives a coin of excellence from Austin for his contributions to Task Force Warrior.



Riley: Cont. from page 1

month he is on convalescent leave in his tent. He is off the duty roster and being given time to make sure that his wound heals properly.

"At first I couldn't move my right leg at all, now I can move it up and down," said Riley. "It's healing pretty good."

But it is not easy sitting in the tent when he knows his team mates and the rest of his squad are out there looking for the bad guys – doing the mission that he came here to do.

"I don't think there is anything that could have been done to have prevented the shooting," said Riley. "We

have to be out there and there are plenty of places for them to hide and just snipe at us."

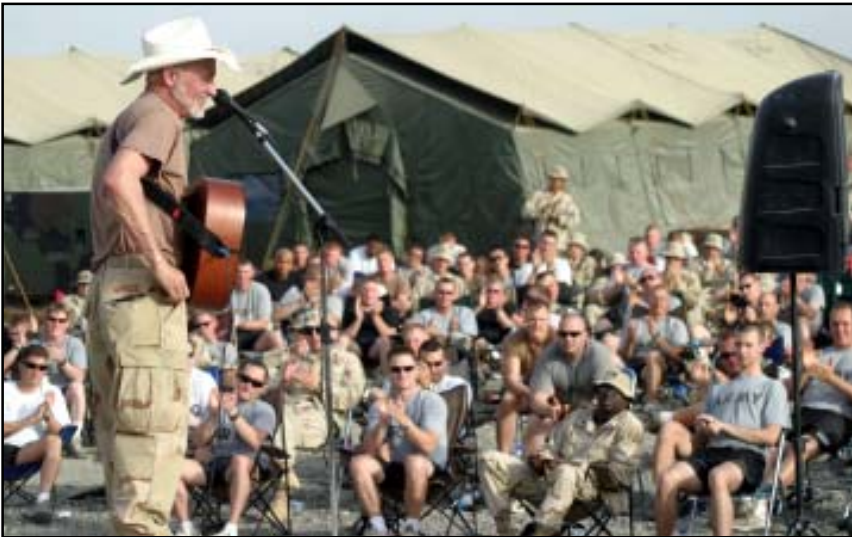
Although he knows that there is nothing that could have been done about it, he is not happy to have been shot and then the guy wasn't caught.

"I'm mad that he got away," said Riley. "But, I am glad that Delta got their guy – it helps even the score."

While on a different mission Soldiers from Delta Detachment came under attack when anti-coalition militia threw grenades at their convoy. One of the assailants was killed and one taken under control.

Besides his scare and the bullet that he will carry everywhere with him, Riley will be the first Geronimo to receive the Purple Heart since Vietnam – an honor he would much rather not have.

The Purple Heart is awarded to service members who are wounded or killed during combat operations. The medal was established by Gen. George Washington on Aug. 7, 1782 and is the oldest military decoration. The modern version of the medal bears the profile of Washington and is engraved with the words "For Military Merit" on the reverse.



Salerno Snapshots

ABOVE: Alaskan musician Hobo Jim entertains the troops April 4. RIGHT: Staff Sgt. Troy Shoemaker grapples with Pfc. Marcus Carney, during hand-to-hand combat training. RIGHT CENTER: AH-1 Cobra pilots do preflight checks prior to an evening mission. RIGHT BOTTOM: Spec. Jesse Saenz, task force legal clerk, pays a local civilian 9,000 afghanis for his claim against the U.S. Forces for damage to his vehicle. Wakil Watanpal, an interpreter, witnesses the transaction. BELOW: FOB Salerno's tactical operation center gets the 172nd Infantry Brigade patch painted on it by Spc. Jesse Enos (kneeling), Sgt. Derek Bennett (ladder) and Spc. Aaron Jaskson.

PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. JEFF TROTH



Holocaust Days of Remembrance

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum is mandated by Congress to educate Americans about the history of the Holocaust and to annually commemorate its victims in the national Days of Remembrance ceremony. The Museum has designated "For Justice and Humanity" as the theme for the 2004 Days of Remembrance in memory of the Jews of Hungary, deported sixty years ago in the final stages of World War II, and to honor those courageous individuals as well as the few organizations and countries who attempted to rescue them.

In 1944, Nazi Germany and its collaborators continued, even accelerated, the killings of the "Final Solution" despite certain military defeat. By late summer 1944, Soviet forces, having crushed the German Army in Belorussia, were approaching Germany from the east, while British and American forces, following their successful D-Day invasion of France in June, approached from the west.

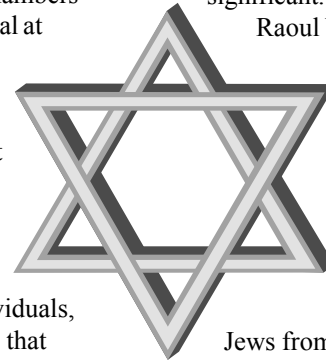
Suspicious of Hungarian efforts to desert the Axis alliance, German forces occupied Hungary in March 1944. In May, Hungarian officials, with German guidance, began the systematic deportation of Jews from Hungary. Most of the victims were deported to the Auschwitz-Birkenau killing center in German-

occupied Poland, while a minority was deported to a string of transit and forced labor camps on the Austro-Hungarian border. In less than three months, German and Hungarian authorities deported approximately 440,000 Jews. At least half of them were killed in gas chambers immediately upon their arrival at Auschwitz-Birkenau. By the time the Red Army drove the Germans and their Hungarian collaborators out of Hungary in April 1945, nearly four-fifths of the Hungarian Jewish community had been killed.

Yet there were some individuals, organizations and countries that asserted the value of human life in the face of the systematic murder of men, women and children. The War Refugee Board (WRB), established on January 22, 1944, by executive order of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, worked with Jewish organizations, diplomats from neutral countries, and resistance groups in Europe to rescue Jews from occupied territories and provide relief to inmates of Nazi concentration camps. Its mandate was to take "all measures to rescue victims of enemy oppression in imminent danger of death."

The creation of the WRB was largely the work of Treasury Secretary Henry Morgenthau, Jr. and his team. Following the 1942 confirmation of the mass murder of Europe's Jews, the failure of the Bermuda Conference on rescue in April 1943, and the

growing outrage of the American Jewry at how little was being done to rescue the remnant of Europe's Jews, there was pressure on Roosevelt to take action, which he finally did in establishing the WRB in 1944. Measured against the enormity of the Holocaust, the work of the WRB and its accomplishments were far too late and exceedingly modest. Yet, when viewed in the context of the military situation in early 1944, and the enormous challenges faced by the agency, the activities and results of the WRB were significant.



Raoul Wallenberg, a Swedish diplomat based in Budapest, Hungary, led the War Refugee Board's most extensive rescue efforts. Wallenberg and his Swedish colleagues, such as Per Anger, helped protect tens of thousands of Hungarian

Jews from being deported to Auschwitz by distributing protective Swedish passports or travel papers. As Sweden was a neutral country, Germany could not easily harm Swedish citizens. Diplomats from other neutral countries joined the rescue effort. Carl Lutz, a Swiss diplomat, issued certificates of emigration placing nearly 50,000 Jews in Budapest under Swiss protection. Italian businessman Giorgio Perlasca, posing as a Spanish diplomat, issued forged Spanish visas and established under his "authority" safe houses, including one for Jewish children. When Soviet forces liberated Budapest in February 1945, more than 100,000 Jews still remained in the city because of the efforts of Wallenberg, Lutz, Perlasca, and other diplomats and individuals. The War Refugee Board played a crucial role in the rescue of as many as 200,000 Jews in German-occupied Europe.

U.S. officials knew about German plans to murder the European Jews more than a year before taking specific action, in establishing the War Refugee Board, to help rescue Europe's Jews. Even though this action was late, it saved lives, reminding us of the terrible consequences of indifference and of the possibility for individuals, organizations and countries to confront and work to halt acts of genocide or related crimes against humanity.



Yad Vashem Photo Archives

Jews on their way to the Auschwitz-Birkenau gas chambers.



ASK MSG NORDSTROM

If you have a question for MSG Nordstrom, drop it off at the ALOC.

Dear MSG Nordstrom,

Any idea why B Co had all of this contact after almost nothing since we've been here?

Signed, Nervous in Blackfoot Service

Dear NIBS

Good question, I know that the S2 shop has been trying to figure it out. Latest analysis has to do with BF6 shaving his head. They figure the hair gel manufacturers are upset because of the loss of business.

MSGN

Dear MSG Nordstrom,

What's up with the cooks running the PX!? I thought the S1 guys did a fine job.

Sincerely, SPC Smith, I mean Jones

Well now Smith, I mean Jones,

Since KBR took over the DFAC ops the cooks were out of a job. Makes sense to utilize them someplace. Besides you guys, I mean the PAC guys have enough trouble doing their regular jobs. As evidenced by the S1 every time he puts up a BUB slide.

MSGN

Dear MSG Nordstrom,

Explain this one to me. Why are they putting AC units in the gym when there aren't any doors or windows and I'm roasting in my tent without anything?

Yours truly, Sweaty in Sleep

Dear SIS,

Makes you wonder doesn't it. No AC in my tent either. Of course I have a shade tree over mine. You get those choices coming on ADVON like I did. So stop whining. No AC when you're on patrol is there? If you can't hang, tell your 1SG and come work for me. I'll make sure you are right next to an AC unit filling sandbags with a mess kit spoon.

MSGN

Dear MSG Nordstrom,

Why are the KBR steaks so tough? No way the plastic knife can cut through them.

Signed, Definitely not Rambo

Dear Not Sly,

Yea, know what you mean. You ought to try chewing them when you are missing a bunch of teeth like me. I'm still waiting for Ft. Riley to mail them to Ft. Rich so I have a full set. All I can tell you is to bring your K-Bar with you to chow. Just be careful not to cut yourself youngster!

MSGN

Dear MSG Nordstrom,

I don't think the Army gives us enough combat entitlements to be over here. What did you get paid to fight in

WWII?

Signed, All About Me

Dear Generation Me,

Two-thirds of the way through this deployment and all I hear about, how guys want this and miss that. Honestly, I'm tired of it! I didn't serve with the WWII generations, but I would have been proud to! They knew a thing or two about PATRIOTISM, SACRIFICE and SELFLESS SERVICE. There were Geronimos then, like Geronimos today, parted from family and home. We, like them, have a similar purpose; to protect our nation from those who would do evil and harm to those we love. Don't be quick to forget the events of 9-11. Now, more than ever, stay on your game, remember why you're here and be proud of who you are! AIRBORNE!

MSGN

Dear MSG Nordstrom,

Did you see the Happy Birthday picture for the XO? They showed it in the BUB the other day and I keep hearing about it, but no complete description.

CPT Full Moon Rising

Dear Chaplain,

Well, without going into any graphic description (this is a family column after all) it was rather unique. Not sure of all the history *behind* it, but the word from the staff officers was that they were in that position anyway so they thought it was appropriate. As for me I am going to go poke my eyes out with a red hot poker

MSGN

LET'S EAT

How many of the following restaurants can you locate in the puzzle?

APPLEBEES
ARBYS
BEAR TOOTH
BOSTONS
BURGER KING
GARCIAS
HOOTERS
HUMPYS
MCDONALDS
OUTBACK

PAPA JOHN
PIZZA HUT
POPEYES
RED ROBIN
ROMANOS
SEA GALLEY
SONIC
SUBWAY
TACO BELL
VILLAGE INN

A	P	P	L	E	B	E	E	S	M	L	S	N	L	Z
O	G	B	G	I	T	S	R	E	T	O	O	H	P	G
P	A	B	O	S	T	O	N	S	Y	S	O	N	A	C
A	R	T	A	C	O	B	E	L	L	P	L	L	I	N
P	C	V	I	L	L	A	G	E	I	N	N	N	P	E
A	I	G	E	P	B	E	A	R	T	O	O	T	H	B
J	A	E	E	R	M	E	R	I	O	S	A	P	R	U
O	S	Y	B	R	A	C	Y	I	E	A	I	N	O	R
H	P	B	K	E	E	A	D	Y	P	Z	C	H	M	G
N	B	A	E	C	W	D	E	O	Z	O	U	B	A	E
O	A	T	H	B	A	P	R	A	N	M	S	A	N	R
Z	L	N	U	E	O	B	H	O	P	A	G	E	O	K
I	S	S	S	P	J	U	T	Y	B	P	L	E	S	I
I	O	Z	I	O	T	P	S	U	B	I	B	D	E	N
S	E	A	G	A	L	L	E	Y	O	E	N	E	S	G